Numb. 16.

MERCATOR

OR,

Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *Britiſh* Trade, &c.

From Thurſday, June 10. to Saturday, June 12. 1714.

The Oppoſers confeſs at laſt that the Merchants Enter Goods to one Place, and Ship them for another.
This proves then that the Cuſtom-houſe *can give no perfect Account.*
They ſhuffle horribly in the Affair of Shipping Goods to Genoa.
If it were granted, it is againſt them.
The Truth is, that both may be true, and yet all confounds their Argument.
Great Quantities of Engliſh *Goods to be bought at* Lyons.
All thoſe come from Marſeilles.

OUR Oppoſers in the Affair of the French Commerce are at laſt, tho' with much ado brought to confeſs, that the Merchants do Enter Goods to one Place that go to another to conceal their Buſineſs, and hide from one another what Exportations they are making

This is a great favour to obtain from ſuch Men as the *Mercator* has to do with, for they never have the Ingenuity to acknowledge any thing they can avoid; but it was ſo convincing they could not go from it. The Goods that go to France are Enter'd as to Flanders, Germany, Jerſey, Holland, the Streights, &c.

This by conſequence proves one thing moſt undeniably, which they alſo are not able to contradict, (viz.) that the Books of the Cuſtom-houſe can give no full Account of the Exportation to France. This they are not pleaſed with, becauſe it throws all their Schemes and Ballances in their Faces, as Forgeries and nonſenſical Drafts, imperfect, &c. to no purpoſe at all, impoſed upon us to amuſe the World and ſupport the Fraudulent Pretences of the Trade, being prejudicial to the Nation; which Scheme however they have the Aſſurance to publiſh again without taking one Step to prove its Solidity, without making any Amendments to it, where they know it to be deficient, and without making any Defence for it againſt thoſe juſt Objections which have been made, whereby it has been proved to be a ſcandalous Forgery, and the Names to it being upon good Grounds ſuppoſed to be forged alſo.

The like ſhuffling it's believed was ſcarce ever ſeen as they make in the other part of the Trade, (viz.) that to Marſeilles: It has been prov'd, that very great Quantities of Goods go every Day, as we may ſay, to Marſeilles ſhipped on Board Ships which are Enter'd to the STREIGHTS, but which are known to go to Marſeilles, and the Goods we have found out are actually conſign'd to Marſeilles, and it can be prov'd they are actually Landed there.

To ſhuffle this off, they have told many a fooliſh Story of *Marſeilles* being a free Port, and the Goods being carried from thence to other Ports; and now as the *Mercator* is inform'd, one of their Mountebank-Merchants has publiſh'd for the Support of his former Deluſions, that theſe Goods are carry'd from Marſeilles to Genoa.

If theſe People had not a Party as ignorant as their Inſtructors are malicious; it were impoſſible ſuch Stuff could go down with them, or that theſe could have the Face to offer it; the Contradictions in it are ſo many and ſo manifeſt, that one would wonder how they could offer any thing ſo groſs to the View of the World.

Our Manufactures to be reſhipped at Marſeilles, and carryed to Genoa! Very good! Then it ſeems the French are, as was obſerved by the *Mercator*, become Factors for us, and carry our Woollen Goods to other Markets to be

But what becomes then of the great ity of their own Woollen Manufactures theſe Men have told us ſo much and ten of, by which they were to beat us of the Trade, in which they did ſuch Wonders, and which were made ſo much Cheaper and better than ours? What are theſe grown ſuch Drugs that they won't Sell, and the French Merchants are fain to leave them at home and carry OURS to Market? *Ridiculus Mus!* Is it all come to this? Is all the French Manufacturing come to ſuch an Iſſue, that they are aſhamed to carry their own Goods to Market, and are turn'd our Journeymen?

What Abſurdities do theſe Men run themſelves into? If the French have any Woollen Manufactures of their own, and thoſe Manufactures are fit for the Market, what do they carry Ours for? If it is true, that they carry Ours to Market, then with what Face can theſe Men talk of the French having Woollen Manufactures to Sell, and of their rivalling us in our Trade? Would they carry our Goods, and leave their own behind them?

This is ſo home upon them, as no greater Advantage can be deſired, by any who enter into Diſpute with another; not that the *Mercator* acknowledges that the Fact is true, (viz.) That they do carry our Goods in that Manner and Quantity as they expreſs to Genoa, &c. But were it juſt as they ſay, it is ſo far from helping them, that if it ſerves them in one Caſe it confounds them in another.

But to bring it more cloſe to them, allowing the Fact to be true in part, (viz.) That they may, for want of Woollen Manufactures of their own, carry Ours to Genoa and other Places, tho' we can certainly carry them there directly, and ſell them much Cheaper there than they can with twice Shipping, and perhaps twice Packing, &c. But ſuppoſe it to be true of ſome of the Goods, does this prove that all are ſo ſent, and that none of thoſe Engliſh Goods go into France? This is but a dull piece of Work indeed; whereas the *Mercator* has good Evidence to produce that there are great Quantities of Engliſh Goods, particularly of Woollen Manufactures and Plantation-Goods, to be bought every Day at Lyons, which can be ſuppoſed to come thither no other way than from Marſeilles; and it may be remember'd, that in the Account of the Riot juſt now at Lyons, the Rabble plundered the Farmers or Cuſtom-houſe Officer of 400,000 Livres Value in Engliſh Tobacco.

So that the Truth is this; Great Quantities of Engliſh Goods are ſhipp'd Daily to Marſeilles, and from thence part of them are carryed farther into France, and the reſt ſhipp'd again by the French Merchants for Genoa and other Ports; Either of them are Demonſtrations of the Thing aſſerted, (viz.) That the French want Manufactures of their own.

The Reader is deſired to obſerve, That the Account given in the laſt *Mercator* of Goods Exported to the *Streights* in Fourteen Days time, from the 24th of *May* to the 7th of *June* inſtant, was ſhort, all the following Goods being omitted, the Accounts not being then come to hand, (viz.)

219	Long Cloths
15	Short
22	Spaniſh
86	Kerſies
1380	Perpets and Serges
715	Stuffs and Druggets
117 dozen	Hats
150	Woaſted Waiſtcoates
112 lb.	Shooes
70 lb.	Epſom Salt
56 lb.	Clockwork and 1 Caſe
14 lb.	Books
14 lb.	Pewter
28 lb.	wrought Iron
6347 lb.	Pimento
25 Ton	Logwood

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

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